They have been permitted by the Government to undertake confectioning and slitting within their overall licensed capacity covered by the above industrial licence.

M/s Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd. are also holding industrial licence for the manufacture of X-ray Films for annual capacity of 10 million sq. mtrs. and graphic art film for a capacity of 2 million sq. mtr.

2. M/s New India Industries Ltd. hold an industrial licence for the manufacture of black and white photographic printing paper for annual capacity of 3.375 million sq. mtr. They have also been permitted to undertake confectioning and slitting of photographic colour paper from jumbo rolls within this licensed capacity.

The policy of the Government with regard to the photosensitized goods is to encurage manufacture of these goods from basic stage. Government have approved creation of capacity for integrated manufacture of medical and industrial x-ray, graphic arts, cinematographic film, photographic colour paper etc.

Import of Petro-Chemicals from Middle-East

1392. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to import petrochemical intermediates from the Middle-East and other countries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Paradeep Port on the East-Coast is being considered for import of these materials and for creation of the required storage and associated facilities; and

(d) if so, by when the proposal would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Import of petrochemicals intermediates takes place depending upon the gap between demand and supply in the country. Most of these items are directly imported by users from different countries depending upon their requirements and market conditions.

(c) and (d) The Government of Orissa had made a suggestion that Paradeep Port be developed for storage and handling of petrochemicals intermediates. Since this would require substantial investment, State Government have been advised to undertake detailed techno-economic feasibility study of any such proposal.

Crisis in the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd., Kanpur

1393. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers of the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited, Kanpur have been on strike since mid July, 1990, and have been refusing to attend to their work;

(b) whether the management has also failed to provide necessary raw materials for maintaining a regular flow of production during the past six months or so;

(c) whether the management is now seeking the protection of IDBI in the matter of finance in order to overcome financial irregularities;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what efforts are to be made to change the present management; and

(e) what points of reference have been reported by Government nominee on the Board of Directors of the Company?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Most of the technical Workers in the two factories of Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Limited have gone on strike since 28-7-1990 in factory No. 1 and since 30-7-1990 in factory No. 2.

(b) Inadequate availability of raw materials due to financial stringency is one amongst several reasons affecting production. Despite the constraints, the production of the company has increased to Rs. 394·06 lakhs during January July, 1990 as compared to Rs. 359·87 lakhs during the corresponding period last year.

(c) to (e) Government have requested IDBI to undertake an indepth study into the working of TAFCO. The points of reference of this study are to examine the viability of the company's operations and suggest ways and means for TAFCO's revival.

Permission to M/s. Simtools for foreign collaboration to make soft drink machinery

1394. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Simtools have been permitted foreign collaboration for manufacturing soft drink machinery;

(b) what was the foreign exchange outflow as per the application; and

(c) what has been the import of soft drink machinery during the last 2 to 3 years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) M/s. Simtools Limited have been permitted foreign collaboration for the manufacture of Bottling Plants.

(b) The foreign exchange outflow shown in the application during the period of collaboration (5 years) was Rs. 645·75 lakhs.

(c) Import data of 'soft drink machinery' is not separately classified in import statistics.

Pending applications from entrepreneurs of West Bengal for grant of letters of intent/licences

1395. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of applications from entrepreneurs from the State of West Bengal for grant of letters of intent/licences are pending with the Central Government for a long time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the applicants are being discouraged for the issuance of licences if they choose to set up industries in the State;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the number of industrial licences issued to this State during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) During the period 1987 to 1990 (upto June), 252 Industrial Licence applications have been received for setting up industrial undertakings in West Bengal. Of these, 91 letters of intent have been